

WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

workers.org



OCT. 9, 2008

VOL. 50, NO. 40

50¢

Handout to the rich ignites people's anger

Fight for a workers' program to save jobs, homes!

By Fred Goldstein

Sept. 30—The political and financial establishment of U.S. capitalism has been stunned by the failure of its initial attempt to get Congress to pass a \$700-billion handout to the banks.

Against a background of bank failures in the U.S. and Europe and appeals from the White House and the Treasury secretary, the House of Representatives on Sept. 29 defeated the bailout bill, 228 to 205. Following the vote, all three U.S. stock markets had historic drops, global stock markets initially plunged, and credit markets tightened up as fear struck Wall Street.

The vote was a defeat for a triple alliance: the bankers, represented by Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke; the Bush administration; and the Democratic Party leadership. They all had labored mightily to sell the bailout.

It is highly likely that another round of political pressure from above will lead to the banks getting their way in the long run. Already the new line coming from the corporate media is to threaten workers that there will be no paychecks unless some version of the bill is passed. But with e-mails and phone calls to politicians running against the bill by 100 and 200 to 1 before the vote, the political pressure

from below has for the moment overcome Paulson, Bernanke and company.

Capitalism's faithful parties gripped by fear

The growing economic crisis produced a political crisis in the two faithful parties of capitalism. On the one hand, the Democratic Party leadership was unable to force some 40 percent of its members to sign on to this gigantic giveaway to billionaires this time around, especially in the face of mounting foreclosures and layoffs. It was particularly noticeable that a majority of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional Hispanic Caucus refused to sign on.

On the other hand, the Republican right wing tried to pose as advocates for the people, spouting hypocritical demagoguery against "big government" and greedy bankers. But in actuality, their proposals were to further deregulate the banking industry to allow hedge fund gamblers and private equity billionaires to enter the bailout racket.

Of course, the right-wing opposition to "big government" does not extend to the growth of the Pentagon and its trillion-dollar war in Iraq, the growth of the repressive apparatus of Homeland Security to persecute immigrants and undocumented workers, the growth of the FBI, the CIA and so on. These ideologues

are only against government intervention that might put restraints on the unbridled profit-seeking activity of big business.

It is hard to tell whether these right-wingers voted "no" out of concerns of ideology or pragmatic protection of their seats in the House or both. Whatever their motives, their political rhetoric against "big government," which used to be applauded on Wall Street, has suddenly been made obsolete by the present crisis.

The once high-and-mighty tycoons of Wall Street used to get their assistance quietly, behind the scenes, from the Federal Reserve. In the present crisis they suddenly find themselves in desperate need of openly and directly getting their hands on the entire U.S. Treasury. The bankers behind the present crisis now need to rid themselves of trillions of dollars in toxic debts that they acquired by swindling the workers and then swindling the rest of the world into buying these bad mortgages. The "no big government" right-wingers, once praised by Wall Street, are completely out of sync with the needs of their masters in the present crisis.

Whatever the ultimate fate of the bailout bill, two important things stand out. First, the working class, the oppressed, everyone who is suffering foreclosure, job layoffs, lack of health care and other hardships, must formulate their own program

Continued on page 4

WHERE'S OUR BAILOUT?

Protests across the country



6-7

Sept. 28 protest on Wall St.

Pentagon Budget Another huge handout

Editorial 10

STOP STATE REPRESSION

- Police Holocaust 2
- Jersey Four 3
- RNC Eight 5
- Harlem 5 5

'Money for people's needs, not bankers' greed'—

Activists march through the streets of New York on Sept. 27 to protest the proposed \$700 billion bailout of the banks by Congress and also endless war. Street meetings were organized at Times Square and Union Square by the Stop War on Iran campaign as part of a nationally coordinated day of actions.

WW PHOTOS: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Subscribe to Workers World

☐ Four weeks trial: \$1 ☐ One year: \$25

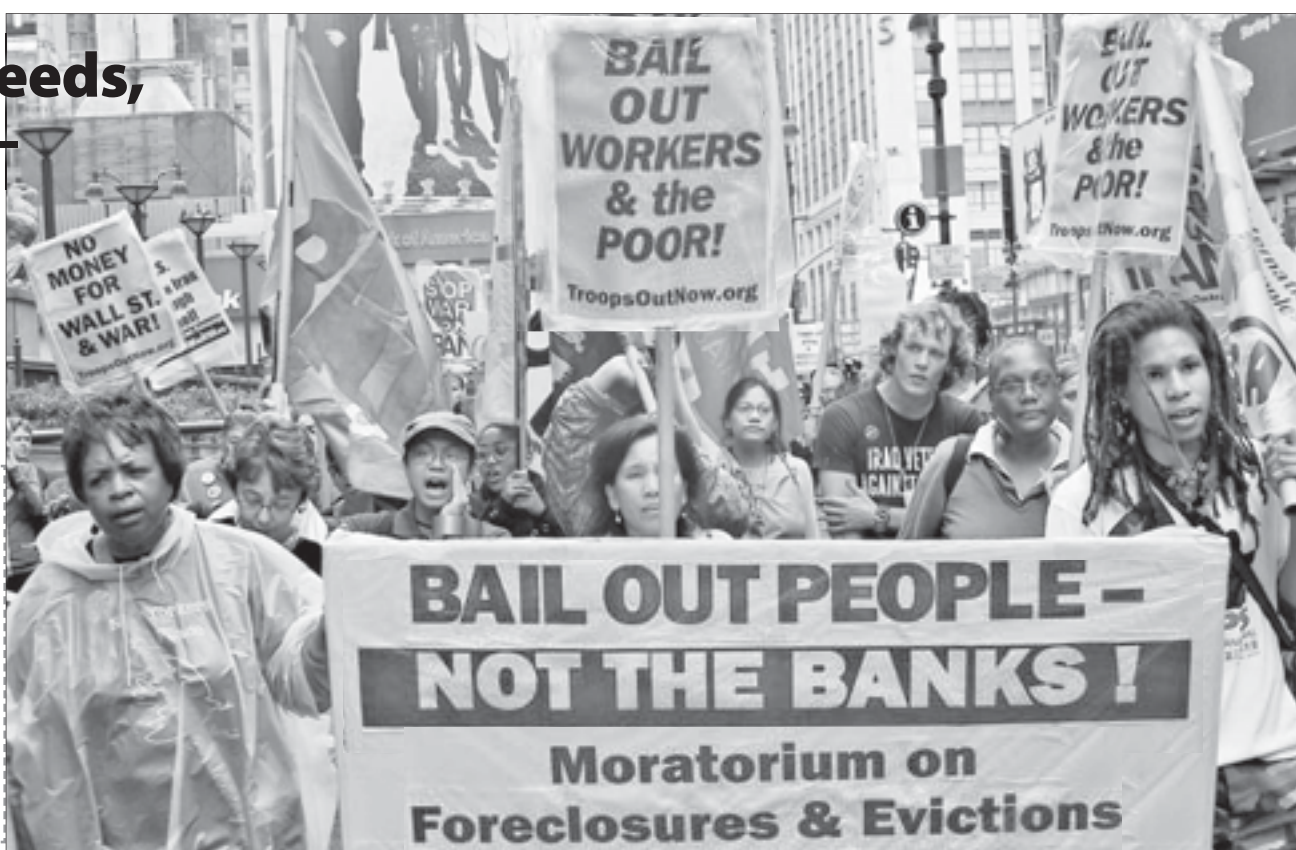
NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

WORKERS WORLD

55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011 212-627-2994 www.workers.org



Philadelphia: Police holocaust

This week ...



Workers World is reprinting archival articles during our 50th anniversary. The following article appeared on the front page of the May 23, 1985, issue. Death-row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, a MOVE supporter, praised WW's coverage of this heinous act. To this day, not one Philadelphia official has been legally accused of mass murder or indicted for the criminal bombing of this Black community.

By Monica Moorehead

May 15—The smoke has now cleared within the devastated Black community of West Philadelphia, terrorized by the police for the past two days. But the shock and anger remain.

Ten charred bodies, including at least two children, have been discovered so far in the carnage and destruction reminiscent of a war zone.

Clarence Mosley, the city's Black assistant managing director, remarked while investigating the area in the aftermath of the siege, "I've been to Korea and Viet Nam, and I've never seen anything like this. It's devastating. There's nothing left."

More than 60 homes were leveled, leaving more than 250 people homeless, with no place to go. The people of Philadelphia, around the country, indeed around the world are asking: Why and how did such an atrocity happen?

What possible reason could there have been for the bombing of a residential neighborhood? What justification is there for this brazen exposition of force and violence by the police?

No concern for community

The racist bourgeois media play up that there were complaints in the neighborhood about the unsanitary lifestyles of the members of MOVE, the group occupying the house. If that was the problem, why weren't health officials called in to deal with it instead of an army of police? Why couldn't the house be quarantined instead of firebombed off the map?

When Union Carbide, a U.S.-owned multi-million-dollar chemical corporation, caused the deaths of 2,000 innocent people in Bhopal, India, last year due to a toxic gas leak, it was quarantined and the area sealed off. Why wasn't the same consideration given to the people of West Philadelphia if MOVE members posed a health hazard to the community?

Is the neighborhood better off now that it has been burnt to the ground?

The All Peoples Congress was one of the first organizations to condemn the police assault. National coordinator Larry Holmes asked in a statement to the press:

"When is the last time the army or police dropped a bomb on any one of the hundreds of multi-million-dollar chemical, waste disposal and weapons manufacturing corporations that pollute rivers, lakes and the air above, creating a deadly health hazard for millions and profits for the bosses? The truth is that the police had no concern for the health of the residents of that community or any other Black or poor community.

"No excuse can conceal the racism behind the police violence in West Philadelphia. The police had a racist vendetta against MOVE ever since their last assault on the group's home in 1978."

Philadelphia is a police city

Philadelphia is the fifth largest city in the U.S. with close to 2 million people, including a very large Black and Latin population. The unemployment rate is 13.5 percent generally, and twice that for Black and other oppressed



people. Four out of 10 adults are functionally illiterate. Philadelphia is becoming more and more a city of homeless people, who number approximately 15,000 and are increasing every day. Hunger, poverty and gentrification are becoming more acute for the poor and working class communities.

There is another side to Philadelphia. Since the days of ex-Mayor Frank Rizzo, Philadelphia has been and remains a police city. Wilson Goode may be the mayor now, but Rizzo's racist, repressive police force has not changed in character. In fact, it was Police Commissioner Gregore J. Sambor, who is white, and not Mayor Goode, who is Black, who made the decision to drop the explosive bomb in the Black community, although Goode has defended the decision.

It was a former army general, Leo Brooks, now the city's managing director, who took responsibility for dropping the bomb, which did an estimated \$5 million damage to property.

The police are the controlling element in any city and are given the green light by the ruling class. In Philadelphia, this is wealthy families like the Biddles, the Pews, the Dicksons, Drexels and Dorrances, who live in the exclusive suburbs on the Main Line outside the metropolitan area.

This is where the real power lies in Philadelphia. The police are answerable to the wealthy ruling class, the bankers, the real estate interests, not to the mayor or any other elected city official, and they will act independently of the city government, especially when it comes to repression against the Black community and suppressing rebellions against intolerable living conditions, like those of the 1960s.

This attack may seem to have been aimed against a small group of people, but it should be remembered that just a few months ago, thousands of youth in Philadelphia, who suffer 60 percent unemployment, fought police in the streets. With the cutbacks in social services, and racism and unemployment on the rise, the police have been developing all kinds of new tactics to keep down social unrest, and they've been itching to try them out.

The bombing of West Philadelphia exposes the vicious nature of the repressive capitalist state and the inability of the representatives of this profit system to solve the crisis of unemployment, homelessness, hunger and other social diseases except with extreme violence and terror.

The only answer is for the millions of poor, oppressed and working people to organize themselves into a powerful, militant fightback movement. The survivors of West Philadelphia not only deserve new homes and monetary compensation for the horror and suffering brought upon them, but they and millions of others need jobs, justice and basic human rights—not police terror! □

★ In the U.S.

Handout to the rich ignites people's anger	1
WW in 1985: Philadelphia police holocaust	2
National campaign to raise bail for the Jersey 4.	3
Tookie Williams: A martyr for the struggle	3
On the picket line	4
Cops attack Black activists at Harlem parade.	5
'Terrorism' charges levied against RNC protesters	5
Boston eviction blockaders fight back	6
Michigan emergency protests	6
Blaming Wall Street's victims	6
N.Y.C. Central Labor Council takes on Wall St.	7
Bailout plans spark nationwide protests	7
'Ziggy' Klein presente!	10
Sept. 17 'special day of my life'	10
Letter from a former Chrysler worker	10
Students denounce war criminals.	11

★ Around the world

Ontario students support striking faculty	4
Communist leader: 'We will construct a New Nepal'	8
Somalis resist U.S.-backed occupation	9
10,000 in Germany protest Afghanistan war	11
Iran's 'crimes'?	11
Much ado about the U.S. blockade of Cuba.	11

★ Editorials

The Pentagon bailout	10
--------------------------------	----

★ Noticias En Español

La burbuja expansionista de la OTAN	12
---	----

Workers World
55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 50, No. 40 • Oct. 9, 2008
Closing date: Sept. 30, 2008

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editor: Lal Roohk

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson

West Coast Editor: John Parker

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, David Hoskins, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Shelley Ettinger, Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascassenno

Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martinez, Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2008 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at www.workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

JOIN US.

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latin@, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students. If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.,
New York, NY 10011
212-627-2994;
Fax (212) 675-7869
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, GA 30301
404-627-0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
426 E. 31 St.,
Baltimore, MD 21218
410-235-7040
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.,
Boston, MA 02130
617-983-3835
Fax (617) 983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-566-1115
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
773-381-5839
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216-531-4004
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.,
Detroit, MI 48202
313-831-0750
detroit@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 595
Houston,
TX 77001-0595
713-861-5965
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
111N. La Brea Ave., #408
Inglewood, CA 90301
310-677-8647
la@workers.org

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 23843,
Philadelphia,
PA 19143
610-931-2615
phila@workers.org

Raleigh, N.C.
raleigh@workers.org

Richmond, Va.
P.O. Box 14602,
Richmond, VA 23221
richmond@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
585-436-6458
rochester@workers.org

San Diego, Calif.
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619-692-0355

San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-738-4739
sf@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300,
Washington, DC 20037,
dc@workers.org

Following recent victories

National campaign to raise bail for the Jersey 4

By Dustin Langley and Imani Henry
New York

A fundraiser for the New Jersey 4, hosted by the Brecht Forum and co-sponsored by the Audre Lorde Project, FIERCE and All7.org, was held here on Sept. 16.

The Jersey 4 are young African-American lesbians from Newark, N.J., who were convicted of “gang assault” charges in June 2007 after defending themselves against a man who attacked them and three of their friends in August 2006.

The seven friends were walking in the West Village of New York City when they were sexually propositioned by a vendor, Wayne Buckle. When they said they were not interested because they were lesbians, Buckle hurled anti-gay epithets, threatened them with sexual assault, then proceeded to physically attack the women. Two men rushed to help the women, and over the course of the altercation Buckle was stabbed in the abdomen.

Buckle spent only days in the hospital, and although no physical evidence connected the seven to his stab wounds, four of them were given sentences ranging

from 3.5 to 11 years. Patreese Johnson, who was deemed the “ringleader” by the judge, was also charged with first- and second-degree assault.

Through the efforts and activism of their legal team, families and a national movement, the conviction of 21-year-old Terrain Dandridge was vacated on June 19, with the indictment against her completely reversed. The conviction of 26-year-old Renata Hill, who was originally sentenced to eight years, was also vacated. Although currently free on bail, Hill still faces the possibility of a new trial, as the indictment against her was not reversed.

The other two, Venice Brown and Johnson, are still in prison awaiting appeals scheduled for November. Brown received a five-year sentence, and Johnson was sentenced to 11 years. Recently a national campaign has begun to raise \$5,000 in bail money for Brown as well as money to cover legal fees for all four.

The Sept. 16 fundraiser was dedicated to the memory of Mollie Brown, mother of Renata Hill, who passed away while her daughter was in prison. Tragically,

Hill was not allowed to attend her mother’s funeral.

The fundraiser opened with rousing music from the Voices of Liberation choir, which is from the Liberation in Truth Unity Fellowship Church in Newark. The multinational list of speakers and performers included renowned poet and activist Amina Baraka; performers Nedra Johnson and Gabriella Callender from the Mahina Movement; Nigerian poet yvonne fly onakeme etaghene; and Zaum, an Armenian activist and artist who coordinated the event.

Two of the Jersey 4, Hill and Dandridge, were present. Dandridge and her mother, Kimma Walker, read an emotional account of the night the women were attacked and arrested.

The money raised at the event will be used to support the young women in a variety of ways. Walker told Workers World: “With the exception of my daughter, these beautiful young lesbians must now endure living life with a felony record. Life’s basic necessities, such as job placement, housing and student loans, are going to be very hard, if not impos-

sible, to obtain. Prison visits, packages of food and toiletries, and collect phone calls have now become a way of life for family and friends.”

The West Village has traditionally been one the historic homes and safe havens for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, especially young LGBT people. Yet millions of dollars are at stake in the ongoing gentrification of the West Village, and this lies at the root of the anti-youth, racist and anti-LGBT oppression that surrounds the Jersey 4 case.

New York University, the biggest landlord and employer in the West Village, has been one of the forces that has imposed curfews and promoted increased police brutality in the area. In 2001 the New York Times reported, “Not counting its medical and dental schools, N.Y.U. today owns about 60 buildings with 9.3 million square feet, about 50 percent more than the 6.3 million square feet it owned in 1970.” (Apr. 19, 2001)

To get updates, send donations or find other ways to support the New Jersey 4, visit www.all7.org/ or www.fierceny.org. □

TOOKIE WILLIAMS
A MARTYR FOR THE STRUGGLE

By Larry Hales

“My rage was nourished by the hate I saw and felt from mainstream society and white people, a hate based on my black skin and my historical place at the nadir of America’s social caste. I was filled with hate for injustice. Yet my reaction to the hate was violence directed only toward blacks.”

Stanley Tookie Williams’ “Blue Rage, Black Redemption” is a story of the seething rage within him and the heroic task he undertakes to understand that rage and place it in a historical context.

He begins this process while on death row, where his life has been given an end date. And though he conveys that he knows the system has every intention to fulfill the barbaric sentence, while deepening his political understanding and self-actualization he gives the impression of always looking forward, beyond the conditions of prison, the hole and the death sentence hanging over him.

By writing his memoirs, he intends for his life to be an example, a warning sign for other oppressed youth to not diverge down the same path that he took.

In the introduction, Tookie says: “The title of this book represents two extreme phases of my life. ‘Blue Rage’ is a chronicle of my passage down a spiraling path of Crip rage in South Central Los Angeles. ‘Black Redemption’ depicts the stages of my redemptive awakening during my more than 23 years of imprisonment on

California’s death row. These memoirs of my evolution will, I hope, connect the reader to a deeper awareness of a social epidemic that is the unending nightmare of racial minorities in America and abroad as well.

“Throughout my life I was hoodwinked by South Central’s terminal conditions. ... From the beginning I was spoon-fed negative stereotypes that covertly positioned black people as genetic criminals—inferior, illiterate, shiftless, promiscuous. ... Having bought into the myth, I was shackled to the lowest socioeconomic rung where underprivileged citizens compete ruthlessly for morsels of the American pie—a pie theoretically served proportionately to all, based on their ambition, intelligence, and perseverance.”

Tookie begins the book at his birth on December 29, 1953, at New Orleans Charity Hospital, recounted for him by his mother, with the words, “I entered the world kicking and screaming in a caesarean ritual of blood and scalpels.” He relates how his mother endured the ordeal without anesthetics, which were denied to her because she was Black, and that to try and dull the pain in her mind she sang the Christmas carol, “Silent Night,” over and over again.

His birth foreshadowed his life and



workers world
BOOK REVIEW

death, because, though lethal injection is touted as being quick and painless, because of a botched procedure during his execution Tookie languished, struggling for life, for 30 minutes. In the epilogue, Barbara Becnel, Tookie’s friend, advocate and co-author, who witnessed the horrifying ordeal, describes: “The midsection of Stan’s body did not stay still. It began to contort, caving in to the point of distortion—his stomach appeared to have been sucked dry of all internal organs, as it sunk so low it nearly touched his spine. And his convulsing continued for a while. At the sight of Stan’s monumental struggle to die, I thought that I heard an audible and collective gasp fill the room.”

But the recollection of the difficult conditions of his birth also portend his life, because it points to the toll racism takes on the Black soul—the real effects it has on everyday life, the damage it does to the Black psyche and the ramifications of a colonized mind.

In “Black Skin, White Masks,” Frantz Fanon, the Martinique-born Black revolutionary theorist, wrote: “A drama is played out every day in the colonized countries. How can we explain, for example, that a black guy who has passed his baccalaureate and arrives at the Sorbonne to study for his degree in philosophy is already on his guard before there is the sign of any conflict?” Of course, the situation depicted is different, but the meaning is that it is with great reservation and tenseness that an oppressed nationality steps out into the world, because of the history of wealth built off the backs of those of darker skin and the history of genocide, theft of land and slavery.

The rage of the first half of the book

comes from the conditions imposed upon oppressed Black youth in South Central and of the inferiority complex pressed upon them because of the whitewashed view of history taught to U.S. society.

The rage, however, manifested in a self-hatred: “Unlike those ashamed to admit their motivation or too blind to recognize it, I forged through much of my life locked into a hostile intimacy with America’s wrongness. Conditioned and brainwashed to hate myself, and my own race, other black people became my prey and the Crips my sword. Though I cannot condone it, much of the violence I inflicted on my gang rivals and other blacks was an unconscious display of my frustrations with poverty, racism, police brutality, and other systemic injustices routinely visited upon residents of urban black colonies such as South Central Los Angeles.”

Seeking self-worth and the protection of other street organizations of Black youth, Tookie, Raymond Washington and their friends built the Crips and consolidated many of the other gangs into the fold. He states that they were not aware of the Black Panther Party or other militant and revolutionary organizations, but that if they had been, that perhaps their energies would have been directed towards the struggle and that he and his friends would have been ready and willing foot soldiers.

Real material conditions bring about phenomena. Tookie is a martyr for the struggle for a better world. Not only was he victimized by the conditions of exploitation, but, facing certain death, he transformed himself and sought redemption from the oppressed around the world by using his life as a guide, exposing both the ugly and his many mistakes, the camaraderie of himself and his fellow inmates—the inescapable beauty of life.

His memoirs, which also uncover the frame-up that sent him to be executed—a state-sanctioned murder—belong in the pantheon of other autobiographies of Black heroes like “The Autobiography of Malcolm X.”

Stanley Tookie Williams, ¡Presente! □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle
An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes:
Racism, national oppression and self-determination by Larry Holmes
Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery by Sam Marcy
Causes of turmoil in Jamaica by Pat Chin
Black youth: repression & resistance by LeiLani Dowell
Black & Brown unity: A pillar of struggle for human rights & global justice! by Saladin Muhammad
Are conditions ripe again today? 40th anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion by John Parker
Racism and poverty in the Delta by Larry Hales
Domestic Workers United demand passage of a bill of rights by Imani Henry
Black Reconstruction: The unfinished revolution by Minnie Bruce Pratt
Order online at www.Leftbooks.com

ONTARIO

Students support striking faculty

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

For the first time in 26 years, the Windsor University Faculty Association went on strike Sept. 17 at the University of Windsor, a university of 16,000 undergraduate and graduate students in southern Ontario.

“This is an all-out effort by our association to send a message loud and clear to this administration that we want a collective agreement,” Brian Brown, president of WUFA, told a crowd of over 1,000 supporters Sept. 19 at the University of Windsor. “But we want it to be fair and equitable and just. And we don’t want to be at the bottom of the scale of Ontario universities.”

The contract expired June 30 and the 1,000 faculty, part-time faculty and librarians worked in good faith without a contract despite the administration’s anti-union actions. On Sept. 4 a strike vote was taken, with 96 percent in support of striking.

The main issues are the administration’s intention to gut the Windsor Salary Standard, a province-wide system of pay equity and seniority that is a fundamental quality-of-education issue; treatment of union members in terms of respect and working conditions, especially for part-time instructors who are now 45 percent of the teaching staff; administration take-back proposals such as reducing the quality of teaching; curriculum and retirement options; and more.

Campus community support continues to build for the striking WUFA members. Students join the picket line daily and held a mass study session protest at a recent Board of Governors meeting. The University of Windsor Student’s Alliance and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) have sponsored many events, including public forums attended by the union.



PHOTO: WUFA

Windsor University Faculty Association are fighting for union pay scales and working conditions that cover the part-time instructors who now make up to 45 percent of the teaching staf .

The administration was invited but never showed.

The WUFA Executive Committee voted unanimously on Sept. 22 that all members who could afford it should give \$10 from their weekly strike pay to a student hardship fund to be administered by the Students’ Alliance and the GSS.

On Sept. 25 WUFA set up picket lines which were honored by union construction workers at the brand new \$15 million university medical center. WUFA is also doing flying pickets and producing a strike bulletin.

On Sept. 28 a public information session was sponsored by WUFA after the university administration decided to start bargaining in the corporate media. It went so far as to print an ad in the daily Windsor Star that detailed WUFA members’ alleged salaries under the administration’s proposal. The ad angered many union supporters who saw this as an attempt to pit the community against WUFA members. WUFA says the ad’s sal-

ary figures are wholly untrue and it is the administration’s mismanagement and bloated salaries that should be fixed and cut, not the workers’.

At a mass rally Sept. 26, the Canadian Association of University Teachers extended a \$1 million dollar credit line to WUFA. Supporters came from across Canada, including union members who flew in from Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. Representatives from the Union of Part-Time Faculty and the AAUP-AFT at Wayne State University in Detroit attended as well. Canadian Auto Workers president Ken Lewenza has pledged his union’s support.

To send solidarity messages, resolutions and donations, e-mail wufa@uwindor.ca; write Faculty Association [WUFA], 366 Sunset Ave., Windsor, Ontario, Canada N9B 3P4; or call 519-253-3000 (extension 3366).

Pfeifer is the staff organizer of the Union of Part-Time Faculty (UPTF) at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Boeing machinists get strike pay

About 27,000 members of the Machinists union who work at Boeing became eligible to collect \$150 weekly strike pay on Sept. 27. They hit the bricks on Sept. 6 over job security, pay and benefits. What Boeing wants will undermine and ultimately destroy the union: outsourcing work and using nonunion labor in certain jobs in the plants. Though Boeing is losing about \$100 million a day, it is standing by its demands and refuses to negotiate. The union’s counterdemand: rehire 5,000 to 6,000 workers who were laid off after Sept. 11, 2001. To build morale, the union is holding fundraising barbecues where members can learn how to file for unemployment. Fortunately, the Machinists have a \$140 million strike fund, which could last up to six months. (New York Times, Sept. 26)

Members vote: SAG should fight on

Results of a mail-in poll of the Screen Actors Guild membership show that slightly over 86 percent of the 10,298 who responded are in favor of continuing to fight for two core principles. One is “that no non-union work shall be authorized ... under any SAG agreement; and that all work done under a SAG contract, regardless of budget level, shall receive fair compensation when reused.” Another is “to support the negotiating team to get the very best contract possible for our membership.” Almost 10 percent of SAG’s 103,639 members participated in the poll.

“I am encouraged to see that members-at-large agree with the strategy of the national board and their national negotiating committee,” said Alan Rosenberg, SAG president, in a Sept. 17 union press

Handout to the rich ignites people’s anger

Fight for a workers’ program to save jobs, homes!

Continued from page 1

of demands to solve their problems. And second, the people must wage an independent struggle to fight for these demands.

What the bailout bill says

One look at the wording of the bailout bill tells why. The Democratic Party leadership tried to wrap the bill in appealing language about aid to homeowners, accountability, oversight, etc. But this is mainly deception to provide a political cover to shield the politicians in the event of an outright rebellion.

In the matter of stopping foreclosures, the bill calls on the secretary of the Treasury “to encourage the servicers of the underlying mortgages ... to take advantage” of various programs to “minimize foreclosures.” In other words, foreclosure protection is completely voluntary and depends entirely on the will of the mortgage holder.

As for the authority of Paulson to run the show, the bill states that “The Secretary is authorized to ... purchase, and to make and fund commitments to purchase, troubled assets from any financial institution, on such terms and conditions as are deemed necessary by the Secretary, and in accordance with ... the policies and procedures developed and published by the Secretary.”

Paulson was the former CEO at Goldman Sachs investment bank. He is

the point man for the biggest bankers. This bill would give him the sole authority to deal not only with mortgage debt, but also with “any other financial instrument that the Secretary, after consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, determines the purchase of which is necessary to promote financial market stability.” In other words, Paulson can buy worthless credit card debt, student loan debt, auto loan debt, or any other type of debt from any financial institution that he pleases.

But the Treasury will be under no obligation whatsoever to give debt assistance to anyone but the banks.

As for oversight, not one elected official would be involved. The oversight board would consist of the chair of the Board of Governors; Paulson himself as secretary of the Treasury; the director of the Federal Home Finance Agency, created last July by Paulson; the chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission; and the secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

This is equivalent to asking the robbers to guard the vault.

The important point about this is that the Democratic Party leadership was touting this as the new, improved version of the bailout bill. But homeowners, indebted workers, students overburdened by loans, families laboring under debt incurred because of illness, job loss, or any of a hundred reasons for workers to

go into debt under low-wage capitalism, wind up with nothing.

The bill was originally three pages long and gave total authority to Paulson. After days of negotiation it grew to 100 pages long and still gave authority to Paulson and his oversight committee of powerful financial officials.

Workers need their own demands

Thus it is vital for the workers to have a clear and unambiguous program of demands that meet their own needs and put the burden on the bankers and the rich to pay. There is a growing movement across the country to demand a moratorium on home foreclosures and evictions. Foreclosures are at present paramount. However, even with 10,000 people a day facing the loss of their homes, the crisis of the people goes much wider.

As the unemployment rate rises, it is urgent to demand a freeze on all workplace closings and job layoffs and an extension of unemployment benefits. There must be a freeze on utility cutoffs and a rollback in gas, food and utility prices. Workers’ pensions and savings must be protected. Working and poor people need a general cancellation of their debts and an end to repossessions and wage garnisheeing.

As the crisis of the states and cities grows, there must be a moratorium to stop cuts in the budgets of social programs.

Affordable, quality health care, housing and education should be a right.

It is the workers and oppressed, the youth and the elderly who need the trillion dollars that the government wants to hand over to the bankers. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which is supposed to insure individual deposits up to \$100,000, just took on \$40 billion in debt from Wachovia Bank. This \$40 billion was the price the government paid to have Citigroup take over Wachovia and keep it from falling into bankruptcy.

That \$40 billion, plus a good part of the \$700 billion that the government wants to dole out to the banks, could be used to help homeowners facing foreclosure.

From a strictly capitalist point of view, aid to homeowners would transform bad debts into debts that are payable. It would actually ease the financial crisis of the system. Furthermore, by keeping people in their homes, it would keep their homes off the market and ease the glut of unsold properties.

But the bankers would rather get handouts from the government and proceed with foreclosures. They don’t want to set a precedent of granting relief to homeowners, because that could lead to an avalanche of popular demands for all kinds of relief.

It is futile to rely upon the capitalist government or the big business parties to voluntarily give assistance to the multina-

PICKET LINE

by Sue Davis

release. “This membership poll provides clear insight and direction concerning how actors feel about their futures. Clearly they expect Screen Actors Guild to protect them from exploitation in new media, and to preserve longstanding principles and contract provisions.”

Future of Delta & Northwest flight attendants?

What will happen to flight attendants when Delta and Northwest Airlines merge in 2009? The House of Representatives’ Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure concluded, after examining the anti-worker policies of the National Mediation Board, that “the deck is stacked against unionization.” (Communication Workers press release, Sept. 25) The problem is that NMB rules require that a majority of eligible voters must cast ballots in a union election for the results to be valid. That’s one reason why Delta flight attendants were not able to join CWA’s Association of Fight Attendants in May—only 41 percent of members voted. Another was that the NMB failed to take action against Delta for waging a blatant anti-union campaign. Under the current rules, unless 50 percent of the combined 21,000 flight attendants vote to be represented by AFA-CWA, the vote will be voided and Northwest flight attendants will lose more than 60 years of bargaining rights.

New protections for disabled workers

Congress passed a bill Sept. 17 that will expand protections for workers with such conditions as epilepsy, diabetes, cancer, multiple sclerosis and other illnesses. These workers had been denied protection because the conditions could be controlled by medications, hearing aids and artificial limbs. An update of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, the bill rejects the strict standards set by several Supreme Court decisions and makes it easier to prove discrimination. Bush is expected to sign the bill after pressure from the disabled movement. (NY Times, Sept. 18)

Study shows Latin@ workers benefit from unionization

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), the Center for Economic Policy Research issued a report Sept. 16 documenting that unionized Latin@ workers have 17.6 percent higher wages and are more likely to have health insurance benefits and pension plans than their nonorganized brothers and sisters. (www.cepr.net) According to the report, titled “Unions and Upward Mobility for Latino Workers,” unionization raises the pay of Latin@ workers by about \$2.60 an hour and raises the possibility of benefits by about 26 percent. Based on analysis of Census Bureau statistics, the report also shows that even among Latin@ workers in the 15 lowest-paying jobs, union members earn 16.6 percent more and are 41 percent more likely to have health insurance than their nonunion counterparts. The fastest-growing sector of the U.S. working class at 14 percent, Latin@ workers comprise 12 percent of union workers.

tional working class on a scale that would make a genuine difference in the lives of the millions suffering foreclosures, layoffs and other hardships. The only way that real, profound change takes place is as a result of struggle.

No bailout is going to stop the crisis of

Cops attack Black activists at Harlem parade

The Harlem Day parade, held annually in the predominately African-American community in New York City, was once again the scene of an unprovoked attack by the police. The victims this Sept. 21 were members of the New Black Panther Party who were marching in a contingent in their name when the attack happened. Five NBPP members were physically assaulted, arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and assaulting a police officer.

The five members have become known as the Harlem Five. Two of them were scheduled to appear in a Manhattan court on Sept. 26. A community meeting about the case was held at the National Black Theater in Harlem on Sept. 28. Their supporters have asked any spectators who were eyewitnesses to the attack to call 917-420-8662 to help assist with the legal defense of the NBPP members.

A NBPP press release characterized the

incident as “a reckless and outrageous expression of police abuse.” This incident, captured on Youtube, clearly shows a police riot. (www.tinyurl.com/4eyd9x)

The Harlem Day parade has a tradition of bringing out thousands in the Black community and their supporters, along with an overwhelming, disproportionately large number of police, whose presence reflects an occupying, intimidating force.

—Monica Moorehead

‘Terrorism’ charges levied against RNC protesters

By Tyneisha Bowens

For four days in September the top-ranking members of the Republican Party staged their national convention in St. Paul, Minn., to officially announce the presidential and vice presidential candidacies of John McCain and Sarah Palin. While corporate interests and corrupt local politicians welcomed the Republicans with open arms, the citizens of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul organized mass protests and pockets of resistance all over the city.

In preparation for the protests and plans to shut down the Republican National Convention, the city of St. Paul was given \$50 million for security, which it used to terrorize protesters and residents of the Twin Cities before and during the RNC. Harassment included preemptive raids on private homes and public meeting spaces with no warrants or legal reasoning; the arrests of 800 protesters, journalists and locals; brutality and torture in the jails and detention centers where protesters

were held; and the use of gas, concussion bombs, pepper spray, rubber bullets and marker ammunition on protesters.

Of the 800 arrested, eight—Monica Bicking, Robert Czernik, Garrett Fitzgerald, Luce Guillen-Givins, Erik Oseland, Nathanael Secor, Max Spector and Eryn Timmer—are being charged with “conspiracy to commit riot in furtherance of terrorism.” This is the first use of this charge, under the USA Patriot Act. The charge is a second-degree felony that could result in several years in prison for these eight brave organizers.

The eight are members of the Welcoming Committee, an anarchist/anti-authoritarian group that organized activities to shut down the RNC. Their arrests took place on Aug. 30 and Sept 1, six of them in raids of homes and public meeting spaces.

It is clear that the RNC 8 are political targets being used to set a repressive precedent against organizers and activists across the country. The U.S government is setting the stage for mass repression of movements for social and economic



justice by equating activism to terrorism. This can be seen in the arrests and charges of the eight as well as the new presence of an active military unit, fresh from Iraq, which has been placed within U.S. borders to put down acts of “civil unrest” and subdue groups and individuals.

Organizers across the country are mobilizing support for the RNC 8 through fundraising for legal expenses, letters of support, building awareness locally and nationally as well as putting pressure on Minnesota elected officials to drop the charges and free the eight. Their trials are underway at the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center in St. Paul.

This is the time to stand together against the repression of our right to call out and act against injustice, our right to stand up against oppression, war and poverty. It is time for us to call for justice for the RNC 8 and all political prisoners.

For more information on the RNC 8 and their trial dates visit rnc8.org. □

overproduction that is overtaking capitalism today. It underlies the financial panic that is roiling not only the U.S. but Europe, Asia and the rest of the world. What Paulson and Bernanke have in mind is to slow down and manage the crisis. They want to avoid a sudden collapse, a social shock that would not only cause a sharp drop in the profits of the corporations and banks but could set off an upsurge of the mass struggle. The goal of Washington and Wall Street is to engineer a so-called “soft landing.”

But whether the economic crisis develops gradually or suddenly accelerates, the ruling class will try to shift all the suffering onto the workers. The greater the crisis of the ruling class and the rich, the more they will try to push it onto the people. The series of government bailouts is a prime example.

They began with \$29 billion for JPMorgan Chase to acquire the bankrupt Bear Stearns investment bank.

Then came \$200 billion more for the Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae mortgage banks.

Then came \$85 billion for AIG, the insurance giant.

With the crisis spreading, the bosses now want a giveaway of \$700 billion to all the banks. And that may not be enough.

They admit to at least \$4 trillion in bad mortgage debts—and there’s probably more, because the bankers hide everything from each other and from the gov-

ernment. With each escalation of their crisis, they pile more debt upon the working class and the middle class.

Bailout of capitalism

In truth, the bailout of the banks is really a bailout of capitalism. The banks are the heart and soul of capitalism. They have engaged in an orgy of speculation for a decade. They inflated values in the stock market and flooded the world markets with worthless mortgage-backed securities. They created a mountain of fictitious capital that far outstripped the underlying real value, all of which must be created by workers working. Now that false value is beginning to collapse.

This is not capitalism “gone wrong.”

It is the fullest expression of what capitalism really is. Panics and crashes have happened throughout the history of capitalism, but now, in the age of globalization and high technology, they have reached new heights.

This system is based on profit. Profit is the be-all and end-all of capitalism. The engine of the entire system is production for profit. Getting the most profits is the aim of every capitalist, from the sweatshop owner to the largest transnational corporation.

Speculation and gambling for instant profits grows naturally out of the system. It is not an aberration or an abnormality.

The bankers who swindled the workers with subprime, deceptive, lying mort-

gages and then sold these mortgages off to other capitalists, gaining fees and high profits along the way, were doing what the ruling class does all the time, at every opportunity.

The starting point of capitalist exploitation and profit is money. Without money, no capitalist can hire workers or buy raw materials or inventory to set the process of exploitation and profit making into motion.

The bankers are in control of all the money in society. They sit on the boards of the corporations. They advise them and finance their loans. They sell corporate stocks and bonds on the market. The owners of productive capital and the parasitic financiers are completely intertwined with one another.

Human need is not part of their calculation. The fact that people need housing, food, jobs, education and health care means nothing to them if they cannot profit from it.

The bankers who are throwing people out of their homes are interlinked with the corporations that are laying workers off. They are tied to the utilities that are shutting people’s heat off in the winter, to the supermarket chains and agribusiness corporations that are raising food prices, and to the oil companies behind the invasion of Iraq and the high cost of gasoline.

Behind the problem of bankers’ bailouts, foreclosures and layoffs is the capitalist profit system itself. □

Eviction blockaders fight back

By Gerry Scoppettuolo
Boston

Foreclosure fighters took on Deutsche Bank Sept 25 in Boston, in the latest eviction blockade organized by the City Life Tenant Organizing Program and its supporters. Four protesters were arrested, including this writer, while trying to prevent the Boston police and a constable from evicting the Esquivel family in Boston's Roslindale neighborhood. While eviction blockaders were detained by the police here once before, this was the first time activists were arrested, booked and arraigned by the District Attorney.

The family proudly maintained its dignified stance while supporters stood around them on the street. Three television stations and the Boston Globe recorded the obscene actions of the police, the banks and Mayor Thomas Menino, who allowed the police to occupy the Esquivels' property before the arrival of the constable—a first in 10 eviction blockades this year. At the time, the Esquivels were still the legal tenants and the family was in Boston Housing Court seeking a restraining order against the eviction. This escalation of tactics by the city of Boston signals a hardening of bourgeois opposition in the face of City Life's mostly successful strategy of using militant eviction blockades to



force banks to negotiate foreclosures.

As the government's Wall Street bailout neared passage, it became clear that soon the new owners of the Esquivels' mortgage would likely be the federal government, as it restores credit to wealthy banks like Deutsche Bank while families like the Esquivels get thrown out. Stockholders in these bailed-out banks stand to see the value of their holdings increase. Recent reports about the government bailout disclose that there will be no real help for foreclosed homeowners, just letters from the Federal Reserve to banks "encouraging" them to loosen

their lending terms (Wall Street Journal, Sept. 29).

Three days after the eviction, Boston's International Action Center and the Women's Fightback Network pushed ahead with its State of Emergency Petition Campaign, demanding that Gov. Deval Patrick issue an emergency order halting further evictions and foreclosures and rolling back and freezing food and fuel prices. Activists handed out flyers and gathered signatures on the campaign at a "Food and Fuel Summit" sponsored by the may-

or at Madison Park High School, in the oppressed community of Roxbury. Those coming for assistance against skyrocketing food and fuel prices eagerly signed the petition, agreeing the government should bail out the people rather than the banks. The action was coordinated with actions in many cities

For more information on the WFN and IAC Economic State of Emergency Campaign, go to www.iacboston.org, or contact gerry@iacboston.org or frank-neisser@gmail.com. □



Emergency protest builds for organizers' conference

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Activists with the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions called an emergency demonstration in downtown Detroit on Sept. 25 to protest the trillion-dollar bailout of the financial industry and demand an immediate moratorium on home foreclosures nationwide.

Some 50 protesters gathered at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center and marched through the financial district with banners and signs declaring, "Bailout the people, not the banks!"

Protesters stopped and rallied outside Comerica, National City and Charter One banks, all of which participated in the subprime mortgage fiasco perpetrated on workers and the poor in Michigan and throughout the U.S.

Detroit City Councilperson JoAnn Watson told the demonstrators: "The banks are getting bailed out. The auto companies want a \$50 billion federal loan to help them regain market share. What about us? What we need is a bailout for Detroit, for the people!"



Detroit, Sept. 25.

Protesters chanted, "The people need jobs and relief—not one more penny for Wall Street!" and "Stop foreclosures and evictions—moratorium now!" During the protest, motorists honked their horns continually and raised their fists in support of the demand to bailout the victims of the financial crisis, not the bankers who caused it.

The demonstration was covered widely on local media, including CBS-affiliate WWJ news radio, the Detroit Free Press, Fox affiliate TV2 and ABC affiliate chan-

nel 7. On Sept. 26 the Free Press reported that many Congressional representatives from Michigan have been flooded with calls and emails against the bank bailout.

Coalition organizers Vanessa Fluker and Abayomi Azikiwe spoke at a rally of the Gray Panthers during their national conference in Detroit on Sept. 27.

At a coalition meeting Sept. 27, plans were made to continue the struggle in Michigan, including a statewide organizers' conference after the November elections.

Coalition activists plan to meet with Detroit Mayor Kenneth Cockrel Jr. to request that he declare a state of emergency in the city and formally apply to Gov. Jennifer Granholm for a foreclosure moratorium.

The next meeting of the Moratorium NOW! Coalition will be on Oct. 11 at the Central United Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams, 4th floor, Detroit, MI 48226. For more information or to send a donation, call 313-887-4344, email moratorium@moratorium-mi.org, or visit www.moratorium-mi.org. □

Joyce Chediak,
Larry Holmes,
NYC, Sept. 27.

WW PHOTOS: G. DUNKEL



Blaming Wall S

By Stephen Millies

People are furious at the trillion-dollar handout being given to Wall Street by Bush and Congress. So what are the capitalist media mouthpieces doing?

They're targeting the victims who are being swindled out of their homes. These professional liars are accusing Latin@ and Black people of fibbing on their mortgage applications.

"They gave your mortgage to a less qualified minority" was the headline of a piece by columnist Ann Coulter, who once called for bombing mosques and forcibly converting Muslims. This title mimics a notorious 1990 TV ad for the late Senator Jesse Helms that claimed African Americans were being unfairly promoted.

The Wall Street Journal claims the Community Reinvestment Act helped detonate the crisis. "This 1977 law compels banks to make loans to poor borrowers who often cannot repay them," it wrote in a Sept. 22 editorial. "Banks that failed



WW PHOTOS: ALAN POLLOCK

NYC Central Labor Council takes on Wall St.

By Mary Owen and G. Dunkel
New York

Responding to the rising anger of its members, the New York City Central Labor Council held an emergency demonstration Sept. 25 near the Wall St. stock exchange to protest the anti-worker bailout bill that appeared to be sailing through Congress.

With scarcely two days' notice, more than 1,500 people showed up for the lunch-hour rally, which drew both national and international attention in the midst of hundreds of anti-bailout protests. For the U.S. labor movement to act quickly on a political issue is very unusual.

A number of Wall St. workers listened from the sidewalk. A sizable number of construction workers from lower Manhattan projects extended their lunch break in order to attend.

"We can't afford any more mistakes from this administration," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney told the crowd. "We must put working families first in line."

Most of the speakers were leaders of the major unions that attended: United Federation of Teachers; District Council 37 of the State, County and Municipal Employees; building trades; airline machinists; Professional Staff Congress-City University of New York; and transit workers. The crowd responded to those who were the most militant against the bankers.

A Machinists union vice-president spoke from his members' experience: "Congress negotiates like shit. ... They negotiated with the airlines and gave them buyouts. And you know what was in it for the workers? Zero. They cut our pensions and salaries. Well, we've heard enough, and we've paid enough, and we can't take it anymore. There's no money for health care, but trillions for a bailout? With Congress negotiating? If they can't do it, we'll kick them

out like the CEOs." This was met with loud cheers from the crowd.

Department Store Local 338 President John Durso went on similarly: "What about pensions, schools, health care and infrastructure? Where's the money for that? These guys run companies down, then get golden parachutes. What about your mortgage? There has to be oversight and the union movement must stand up for working people. Look to your left, look to your right. ... That's who will be standing up for you, not the guys down the block or in Washington."

Barbara Bowen, president of PSC-CUNY, American Federation of Teachers Local 2334, drew parallels between the administration's rush to demand authority over \$700 billion and their rush, five years ago, for authority to invade Iraq.

Wall St., New York, Sept. 29
WW PHOTOS: G DUNKEL



Some of the hand-made signs were sharper than the speeches. An ironworker's sign read, "No golden parachutes—lead boots." "No blank check for Wall Street" was popular.

One sign summed up the mood: "Let me get this straight: \$700 billion for Wall St.; \$700 billion for Iraq War; No money for health care, schools, housing, CUNY, subways." □



Bailout plans spark nationwide protests

By Betsey Piette

In the week since Bush announced plans to use \$700 billion in public funds to rescue Wall Street banks, nearly 200 demonstrations have been organized throughout the U.S. to oppose the bailout and express the righteous anger of workers and poor. Many were organized by grassroots groups taking advantage of the Internet to get the word out.

In addition, tens of thousands of protest e-mail messages have been sent to Congress members, many demanding that any taxpayer funds go instead to assist homeowners facing foreclosures or to provide assistance to the millions unemployed. Opinion polls reported opposition to the bailout running at more than 85 percent.

Some protests involved anti-war activists who characterized the current economic crisis as a war against the workers at home and linked it to the \$2 trillion already spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and threats of new war against Iran.

The mood was angry and militant in **Baltimore, Md.**, where more than 200 people came out on a day's notice for a rally at the Federal Reserve Bank organized by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council.

As congressional leaders negotiated with the Bush administration in **Washington, D.C.**, 150 homeless advocates and community activists protested the city's effort

to shut down the Franklin School homeless shelter—the kind of program that will get the ax if the bailout goes through. Speakers made the connection between the city's plan to close a facility that now houses people who lost homes through mortgage foreclosures, and the twisted priorities of a system that volunteers taxpayers' money to Wall Street millionaires.

Chanting "Main Street first" and carrying signs and colorful umbrellas, a few hundred protesters also marched in front of the White House in the rain to demand the rejection of Treasury Secretary Paulson's Wall Street bailout plan.

About 20 people gathered on a busy intersection in **Tucson, Ariz.**, holding signs demanding "Foreclose the war—not our homes!" and "No to endless war and banker bailouts!" The protesters were met with enthusiastic responses of raised fists, victory signs and horn honks of approval. Drivers rolled down their windows to take leaflets. The linking of the war drive with the attacks on workers seemed to resonate with everyone.

NAU Peace and Justice in **Flagstaff, Ariz.**, held a march and rally of about 110 people to address the imminent war with Iran and to express opposition to the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Outside the federal building in **Philadelphia**, several youth from Students for a Democratic Society and Fight Imperialism, Stand Together joined other anti-war and union activists to voice opposition to the bailout and the

war spending. FIST members Tyneisha Bowens and Miya X led chants and talked about what the bailout will cost in terms of program cuts, jobs lost and the heavy impact on women and people of color. SDS members Alex Grosskurgh and Jeff Rousset called on the government to bail out youth unable to pay off student loans.

Protest signs included cardboard \$700,000,000,000 checks depicting the money Bush wants workers to give over to rich bankers. Among those who stopped to sign a petition to stop the bankers' bailout were a woman who faced foreclosure on her home of 17 years and a homeless Vietnam veteran. Several bus drivers honked their horns in support and opened their doors to get fliers. Two busloads of teenagers passing by all gave the fist and thumbs-up signs to the demonstration.

In **Detroit**, City Council President Monica Conyers and Councilmember JoAnn Watson held a joint press conference under the theme, "No bailout for banks and CEOs without bailout assistance for homeowners." Earlier in the week, the Detroit City Council passed a resolution demanding Congress bail out victims of the housing and mortgage crisis by enacting a two-year moratorium on home foreclosures.

In **Seattle**, several dozen people protested at the federal building while others gathered at the headquarters of Washington Mutual, the savings and loan seized late last week by the government and sold off to JP Morgan Chase. □

Street's victims

to make enough of these loans were often held hostage by activists when they next sought some regulatory approval."

Is this wealthy rag suggesting that people have to hold billionaire bankers hostage in order to get results?

Michelle Malkin actually blames undocumented workers for the wave of mortgage foreclosure in a Sept. 24 New York Post column. Malkin wrote a book that defended throwing Japanese Americans into concentration camps during World War II.

Behind these smears is the bigoted assumption that people of color can't save or budget their money. This lie ignores the fact that in the 1970s the majority of Black families in Baltimore and Detroit owned their own homes.

Despite unbelievable odds, hundreds of thousands of African Americans bought farms following the Civil War. Much of this land was then stolen from them through fraud, often aided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Continued on page 8



Tucson, Ariz.

PHOTO: PAUL TEITELBAUM



Raleigh, N.C.

WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT



Flagstaff, Ariz.

PHOTO: NAU PEACE AND JUSTICE

Communist leader: ‘We will construct a New Nepal’

By Greg Butterfield
New York

Prachanda, the new prime minister of Nepal and chairperson of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), spoke to a meeting of progressives here on Sept. 25. He was visiting New York for the United Nations General Assembly opening.

Comrade Prachanda (born Pushpa Kamal Dahal) led the 10-year people’s war that ousted Nepal’s monarchy and old parliamentary system. The CPN(M) came in first in Constituent Assembly elections held earlier this year with 37 percent of the vote.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and the International Action Center hosted the by-invitation event, which was attended by a broad representation of progressive forces in New York. The program was co-chaired by Sara Flounders of the IAC and LeiLani Dowell of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST).

In her opening remarks, Flounders emphasized the importance of the people’s war in opening up avenues for real democratic and social change in Nepal by going outside the corrupt structure of the parliament and refusing to accommodate the monarchy. This has helped not only to displace the royalty, but to lay the basis for a Constituent Assembly to create new democratic structures and rewrite Nepal’s constitution. Flounders said this was a powerful example of how the struggle of poor and working people, coming from the grassroots, was the fundamental condition for social change.

Ramsey Clark introduced Prime Minister Prachanda, whose name translates as “the fierce one.” Prachanda’s ferocity, said Clark, is for social, political and economic justice for his people.

Standing ovation greets Prachanda

Prime Minister Prachanda was greeted with a standing ovation and raised fists. He spoke to the gathering in English and afterwards answered questions from the



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

From left to right, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Nepali Prime Minister Prachanda, Sara Flounders of the International Action Center and LeiLani Dowell of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together.

audience.

Comrade Prachanda explained that the CPN(M) has tried to understand the lessons of the international communist movement, of the revolutions and counter-revolutions of the 20th century. He briefly reviewed the history of the people’s war, which began in 1996 after the monarchy’s violent repression of mass demonstrations in both the capital city, Katmandu, and in rural areas where the CPN(M) was strong. Prachanda said that his party worked to explain to the people that it was not opposed to peaceful change, but that all avenues had been closed and armed struggle was necessary.

After five years of civil war, the CPN(M) embarked on a serious internal discussion of the lessons of previous revolutions, including the 1917 socialist revolution in Russia. At this time the party adopted the idea that a multiparty system and political competition should exist even under socialism.

They determined that this is what Lenin would have done had he lived another five or 10 years, in the process of trying to build the basis for a socialist economic system in Russia. Lenin would not have followed the same path as Stalin, who made “seri-

ous mistakes in his understanding of philosophy and dialectical materialism,” according to Prachanda.

Following this internal discussion, the CPN(M) initiated negotiations with the Nepali government. However, the talks failed because the government rejected the minimum condition of a constituent assembly.

The democratic revolution must be completed to carry through the socialist revolution, Prachanda said. He explained that through its stupidity and intransigence, the monarchy played a very important part in how the revolution developed. The result was an understanding between those carrying out people’s war and other parties involved in the mass struggle.

Bourgeois democratic and people’s movements fought side by side, including armed struggle in the countryside. This culminated in 19 days of mass actions that brought about the beginning of the end for the monarchy in 2006.

Prachanda commented on the “confusion of some people” when the Maoists became the leading party in Nepal. He said the CPN(M)-led government’s mandate consists of three tasks: 1) drafting a new constitution; 2) carrying through the peace process, termed the “rehabilitation and integration” of the Nepali armed forces; and 3) initiating new economic development.

When he visited China for the closing of the Olympic Games, Prachanda explained, he tried to convey that “we are making a big experiment—not only for Nepal, not only for South Asia, but for the people of the world. We communists are more flexible and dynamic. We try to develop our ideology according to new conditions. We understand the dynamic of change.”

Just three years ago, Prachanda said, he was labeled a terrorist by the U.S. and had a price on his head of 55 million rupees (about \$1.2 million). The CPN(M) is still on the U.S. “terrorism watch list,” even though he is now representing Nepal at the General Assembly. Prachanda joked about the leaders of the U.S. being the ones who are truly “sectarian and dogmatic,” not the communists. He thanked the audience for the opportunity to address the “socialists of the USA.”

Prime Minister Prachanda briefly answered questions from the audience. Bernadette Ellorin of BAYAN USA asked about the future of the peasantry and land reform in Nepal. Prachanda responded that this was a key question facing the coalition government, which is undertaking the study of “a scientific land reform.”

A Venezuelan representative asked about the role of the Nepali army and the dangers they might present to the revolutionary process. Prachanda replied to this “very serious question” that Nepal was developing “our own model for rehabilitation and reintegration” different from

the one espoused by the U.N. One of his first tasks upon returning from the U.N. General Assembly will be the formation of a special cabinet-level committee to oversee this process.

Comrade Shahid of the Pakistan-USA Freedom Forum asked about the role of youth in Nepal. Prachanda explained that Nepal has a very high percentage of youth compared to most countries so this has great significance. He said youth are being mobilized under the popular slogan to “Construct a New Nepal.”

Ardeshir Ommani of the American-Iranian Friendship Committee asked about the role of the united front. Prachanda said that previously there was a united front of seven anti-royalist parties. Since the big developments that took place between 2006 and 2008, the front has changed and is now represented by the current governing coalition, which includes the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) and others. He predicted that the front will go through even more changes with the drafting of a new constitution. Prachanda added, “We want to have a front even with the Nepali Congress Party” against foreign intervention, although it is outside the government.

An audience member asked about Nepal’s economic future, given the country’s past reliance on tourism. Prachanda stated that the 21st century has been called the “century of water resources” and Nepal has huge water resources. His goal is to develop hydro projects at small, medium and large levels. “Through these water resources we will have an economic revolution.” He said there could also be a qualitative development in the tourism industry, as his country is very beautiful and is “the roof of the world” with Mt. Everest.

Monica Moorehead of Workers World Party asked about the role of women in the revolutionary process. Prachanda explained that the Maoists have always given the highest priority to integration of women at all levels of the struggle. He said he was proud to point out that 33 percent of the elected representatives of the Constituent Assembly are women, a higher percentage than in most “democratic” countries. Other parties have been forced to give opportunities to women because of the CPN(M)’s example.

Deirdre Griswold of Workers World Party and newspaper asked whether the Maoists’ experiences with land reform carried out in liberated areas of the countryside during the people’s war could now be applied on a nationwide level.

Comrade Prachanda termed this a “delicate question.” During the civil war there were liberated base areas in much of the country. Now, however, he said, “We had to make some compromises with other political parties” and this is the basis of the “scientific land reform” process. He compared this to China’s struggle against Japanese imperialism, when Mao had to make compromises with Chiang Kai-shek in the interests of the anti-colonial struggle.

Prime Minister Prachanda concluded by noting the he would address the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 26, “where we will put forward Nepal’s struggle as an example for the world.” Smiling, he predicted that would “generate some controversy.”

Besides those mentioned above, representatives of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Nodutdol, the Bolivarian Circle, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), May 1st Coalition for Immigrant Rights, New York Free Mumia Coalition, Palestinian and Puerto Rican organizations, and others attended. The Venezuelan and Algerian U.N. delegations also sent representatives. □

Blaming Wall Street’s victims

Continued from page 7

Now millions are facing foreclosure and eviction.

Bias in lending is just as vicious as racist hiring policies or housing discrimination. A generation ago banks routinely denied mortgages and other loans to people in Black and Latin@ communities in a practice known as “redlining.” This term came from the maps hanging in lending offices with red lines drawn around neighborhoods to be boycotted. The banks would suck up money from the checking and saving accounts of Latin@ and African-American families but refuse to lend to them.

Community organizations across the country took aim at these racist banks and forced Congress to outlaw redlining. Besides the Community Reinvestment Act, Congress was compelled to pass the Equal Credit Opportunity Act in 1974 and the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act in 1975.

How can these laws, passed more than 30 years ago, be held responsible for Wall Street’s current meltdown?

Stanley Leibowitz, University of Texas at Dallas economics professor, wrote: “The mortgage market was humming along just fine when, in the late 1980s, progressives decided it needed to be ‘fixed.’... The shift began in 1989, when Congress amended the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act to force banks to collect racial data on mortgage applicants.” (New York Post, Sept. 24)

If “the mortgage market was humming along just fine,” then why did the savings and loan banks implode 20 years ago?

This current blame-the-victim campaign will boomerang. Subprime mortgages are no bargains to borrowers who have to pay higher and higher interest rates. Though Black and Latin@ homeowners were proportionally more likely to get these usurious mortgages, white borrowers received 55 percent of them. (Wall Street Journal, July 23)

The subprime mess is reminiscent of utility shutoffs. Millions of families every year have their lights and heating cut off because they can’t pay skyrocketing utility bills. Seven children and two adults died in a February 1994 Baltimore fire caused by candles. Their electricity had been shut off three months before.

While a higher percentage of families of color are disconnected, poor whites also get shut off. Campaigns against utility rate hikes and cutoffs, like those waged by the Baltimore All Peoples Congress, were able to unite Black and white workers against the super-rich utility monopolies.

The same thing is happening in the struggle to save people’s homes, as ten thousand families a day are being foreclosed. White farmers joined workers of color from Detroit in the Sept. 17 Lansing, Mich., demonstration to demand a moratorium on foreclosures. □

As warships move into area

Somalis resist U.S.-backed occupation

By Abayomi Azikiwe, Editor
Pan-African News Wire

During the last week of September, unprecedented fighting took place in several areas of the east African nation of Somalia. This rising tide of armed conflict is directly related to the resistance efforts of the Somali people against the occupation of their country by the military forces of neighboring Ethiopia. The Ethiopian invasion in December 2006 was fully supported, financially and militarily, by the U.S.

An important dimension to the recent fighting is the role of African Union (AU) “peacekeeping” units. They consist largely of Ugandan troops who have operated in a fashion that has drawn increasing attacks from the resistance movement in the capital, Mogadishu. The resistance is fighting against the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), which has been kept in power by Ethiopian troops working in collaboration with the Pentagon.

In the early hours of Sept. 29, Islamic resistance fighters fired on Ugandan, Ethiopian and TFG troops in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, resulting in the reported deaths of at least four people.

Eyewitness Hamad Ali Ahmed said three people, including a Somali government soldier, were killed in a series of gun battles “near Villa Baidoa when two mortar shells struck buildings.” (Agence France Press, Sept. 29)

During the same time period, in the Holwadag district of the city, another person was killed in a crossfire and at least seven were wounded.

Islamic resistance members confirmed that the attacks on the military bases of the pro-U.S. forces are the result of a new offensive aimed at driving the Ethiopians, Ugandans and their Somali allies in the surrogate government out of the capital. According to Commander Mohamed Mohamud Dulyadeyn of the resistance, “We attacked the bases of Ugandan forces, Ethiopians and Somali stooges. Five of our men were wounded, but they sustained heavy casualties.” (AFP, Sept. 29)

At the same time, a roadside bomb struck Ethiopian troops in Mogadishu. The device exploded while the soldiers were leaving an area near the presidential palace. In the aftermath of the blast, Somali surrogate troops arrived at the scene and randomly opened fire on commuters who were gathering in the area. No casualties were reported in the incident.

The escalation of fighting between Sept. 20 and 29 has sparked another large-scale exodus from Mogadishu. “From Sept. 20, our figures show that 18,500 people have fled their homes due to the fighting and shelling,” said Ali Sheikh Yassin, acting chair of the Elman Human Rights Organization in Mogadishu.

“Heavy fighting and shelling went on in Hodan and Holwadag districts in south Mogadishu,” Yassin said, adding that

The escalation of fighting in Somalia, both on land and in the waterways surrounding this Horn of Africa nation, must be blamed on the foreign policy role of the U.S. Under the guise of "fighting Islamic terrorism," the U.S. has heightened instability in Somalia and throughout the region.

many families could be seen on the roads, moving rapidly out of the area.

Journalists confirmed the severity of the situation. “The area is emptying. Those who had not left before are on the move now. It is not going to be a very happy Eid [festivities after the month of Ramadan] for many.” (Integrated Regional Information Network [IRIN], Sept. 29)

One of the important resistance organizations, the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, led by Sheikh Sharif Sheih Ahmed, is currently engaged in discussions with the TFG. It said that the actions of the Ethiopian and Ugandan troops and their local counterparts are totally unacceptable.

The alliance condemned the Ugandan troops, accusing them of brutality and indiscriminate use of excessive force in areas occupied by civilians not involved in the fighting.

In a statement on Sept. 29, the alliance stated that “AMISOM (the African Union Mission in Somalia) used unnecessary force and targeted heavily populated quarters and markets far away from the fighting areas, which can only be taken as a deliberate mass killing.”

In response to the statement by the Alliance, AMISOM spokesman Barigye Ba-Hoku told IRIN that the accusation of indiscriminate targeting of civilians “was nonsense.” Ba-Hoku said that the AU forces did not initiate these attacks. “We only defend our positions when attacked,” he said.

However, the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR claims that Somali refugees are flooding the Dadaab camp in northeastern Kenya. “This year alone we have registered more than 45,000 new asylum-seekers at Dadaab,” the agency said in a statement. On average about 5,000 Somalis reach the camp every month.

In other attacks, the Al-Shabab organization, which is a spinoff from the Union of Islamic Courts, has carried out operations against four International Medical Corps (IMC) offices in the Bakool and Bay regions of Somalia. In a Sept. 26 statement, the IMC said that the group “is deeply concerned about the impact of these attacks on the health of already suffering Somali people, especially children.”

Ongoing talks in neighboring Djibouti between the opposition forces and the TFG have failed to reach agreement on ending the fighting. According to a civilian activist close to the talks in Djibouti,

“The main stumbling block is the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces.”

The activist told IRIN on Sept. 23 that the TFG “seemed to be trying to find a way for a less hurried withdrawal, while the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia was demanding that the Ethiopian military withdraw from the country within 30 days.”

Humanitarian situation worsens

As a result of the intense fighting, the main hospital in the capital of Mogadishu has been overwhelmed by people caught up in the clashes. “We are receiving more injured people than we can reasonably handle; we are completely swamped,” Abdi Mohamed Hangul, a doctor at Medina Hospital, told IRIN on Sept. 24.

Hangul said that the numbers of injured people were increasing daily. “Last night alone [Sept. 23] we had 30 people within an hour. I worked as a doctor throughout the civil war and I have to say this is one of the worst times for the population. It is a disaster.”

Hospital beds were completely filled and people were being treated for various injuries in the corridors and outside the facility under trees. “We have more people outside than inside,” the physician said. Making the situation worse is the fact that some staff members are unable to come to work at the hospital due to the intense fighting.

Despite the shortage of workers at the two main hospitals, Medina and Keysaney, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) spokesperson Pedram Yazdi said, “For the time being, the capital hospitals have enough medical supplies to cope with the influx of wounded, and we will re-supply them if more is needed.” (IRIN, Sept. 24)

U.S. Navy off northern Somalia

While the fighting was growing in Somalia, a Ukrainian ship carrying a large-scale arsenal was seized on Sept. 26 by so-called pirates in the Gulf of Aden. The vessel and its crew are reportedly being held for a \$20-million ransom.

The Gulf of Aden, located between Yemen and northern Somalia, is a major artery utilized by approximately 20,000 vessels every year traveling to and from the Suez Canal. Somalis have reportedly seized 30 ships there since the beginning of the year.

According to Reuters press agency, the Ukrainian ship was transporting grenade launchers and ammunition as well

as T-72 tanks. The U.S. military, which is very active in this region, has sent the USS Howard destroyer and other boats of the Gulf-based Fifth Fleet to the area, supposedly to confront the hijacked Ukrainian ship.

“There are now several Fifth Fleet ships in the vicinity,” said the fleet’s deputy spokesman Lt. Nathan Christensen. “Our goal is to maintain a vigilant and visual watch over the ship while negotiations take place.”

One of the main Islamic leaders in Somalia, Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, told Reuters on Sept. 29 that his organization—which was associated with the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), the front that was consolidating its power in 2006 when the U.S.-backed invasion occurred—was not involved in the ship seizures.

“Piracy is not our hobby and we are sorry for being linked to everything that is bad,” said Aweys. He noted that during the rule of the UIC piracy was substantially curtailed, but “no one congratulated us” for these efforts.

U.S. role must be condemned

The escalation of fighting in Somalia, both on land and in the waterways surrounding this Horn of Africa nation, must be blamed on the foreign policy role of the U.S. Under the guise of “fighting Islamic terrorism,” the U.S. has heightened instability in Somalia and throughout the region.

It was the Bush administration that engineered the invasion of Somalia by Ethiopia in late 2006, after the Union of Islamic Courts had made significant progress in organizing the population and establishing community development projects. Since the UIC efforts were taking place independently of U.S. foreign policy imperatives, the imperialists set out to occupy the country, utilizing a military surrogate under the leadership of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia.

Since this time Ugandan troops, operating ostensibly on behalf of the African Union, have been sent into the capital to back up the Ethiopian occupation.

The increasing attacks on vessels in the Gulf of Aden are now providing another rationale for U.S. naval operations. However, these efforts are doomed to failure.

Anti-war and anti-imperialist forces inside the U.S. must condemn the Washington-organized intervention in Somalia as a further manifestation of the bogus “global war on terrorism.”

Judging from the current situation in Somalia, the first steps toward normalization and stability in the Horn of Africa will be the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and surrogate forces so that real negotiations can resume among the various political forces inside the country and the region. □

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

WHY CAPITALISM MUST GO!

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE An assessment of the elections, no matter who wins

The deepening economic crisis—What is it & how can we fight back?

Supporting the right to self-determination against imperialism in the Middle East, Latin America, Caribbean, Africa, Asia & inside the U.S.

Pushing forward the class struggle=UNITY against racism, national oppression, immigrant bashing, women's oppression and LGBT oppression

Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) on organizing youth & students

Why capitalism is the problem and Socialism is the solution

CONFERENCE

SAT•SUN • NOV 15•16

(place to be announced) NEW YORK CITY

• Plenaries • Discussion groups

• Strategy sessions • Music/spoken word

Call 212-627-2994 www.workersworld.net



The 39th annual Day of Mourning will be held on “Thanksgiving” Thursday, Nov. 27 at 12 noon on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth, Mass.

A dinner/social will follow a march and rally.

The event is being sponsored by

United American Indians of New England.

For more updates, go to www.uaine.org.

For New York transportation, call the International Action Center at 212-633-6646. □



The Pentagon bailout

The giveaway to the Wall Street bankers wasn't the only shell game being played out in Congress these past weeks. Wall Street got all the attention, but there was another huge giveaway that Congress approved with little discussion.

The Associated Press reported on Sept. 24, "The legislation came together in a remarkably secret process that concentrated decision-making power in the hands of a few lawmakers." In the middle of the unfolding financial crisis, on Sept. 27, the Senate approved the \$634 billion spending bill, which gives \$488 billion to the Pentagon and \$25 billion to the giant auto companies. It also gives Big Oil offshore drilling rights. Now it's on Bush's desk, waiting for his signature.

But that's still not the whole story. According to MilitaryBudget.info, which uses government figures, the total estimated military spending, when all items are included—Pentagon, "atomic energy defense activities," Homeland Security and "other military and defense-related operations"—will be \$783 billion this year and \$858 billion next year. And that estimate was made before the recent increases passed by Congress, nor does it cover expected demands for additional monies for the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The military-industrial complex is a cancerous growth that comes out of the inherent tendencies in capitalist production. The only defense involved is defending the super-profits of the big capitalists.

Capitalism is in crisis. The crisis is not caused just by the greed of the Wall Street bankers. That greed may exacerbate the crisis, but it doesn't create it. The crisis

is rooted in capitalism. The crisis comes from capitalist overproduction.

The term "bubble" is often used as a way to describe it in the media, without revealing that the bubble is the result of the destructive tendencies of capitalism. Capitalism is based on a competitive drive for profits and those profits must keep expanding or there is a collapse. It has nothing to do with production of what is needed by society.

The gargantuan sums pumped into the military-industrial complex have been the government's response to capitalist crises since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Over the last eight years, the government has launched countless wars and invasions and poured trillions of dollars into military spending. This has delayed the capitalist crisis, but cannot prevent it.

Military spending has been like a drug pumped into the economy to dull the pain of a capitalist catastrophe. But like a drug, more and more is needed to keep away the pain. The drug of military spending cannot cure the disease. Eventually, no matter how much drug is applied, the full sickness does break out.

The Pentagon spending bill just passed by Congress is like throwing more dollars to the drug dealers. That won't heal the crisis and at this point can only make it worse, since it just inflates the government's already huge debt. The only government spending that would really matter right now is spending that would cushion the people from the capitalist crisis. Spending that protects homes, jobs and health care. To get that, however, will probably require kicking the capitalists out of Washington. □

'ZIGGY' KLEIN

*With a song,
he stuck to
his 'battle
station'*

By Rosemary Neidenberg
New York



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

His father was a rabbi and his mother was a communist. She named him Ziegfried, not Siegfried. Ziggy said his name meant "much freedom."

The place was Times Square, the decade, the 1960s. The event was a rally against the Vietnam War called by Youth Against War and Fascism, the youth group of Workers World Party. As Ziegfried Klein observed the action from across Broadway, he saw YAWF being attacked by a gang of right-wingers. "When I saw how the YAWF people fought them off, I knew that was the organization for me."

He joined Workers World Party and soon after took up his "battle station," as he called it, at the staffer's desk in the headquarters—answering the phones, making sure people got their messages, handling the mail. He worked the afternoon shift for 30 years or more, volunteering to come in after his low-paid office job. After a while, he quit a second job—a needed income supplement—so he could fill another staffing slot on Saturdays.

In his earlier years, he walked from his one-room home in Brooklyn to his job in midtown Manhattan. As he grew older, walking became harder. But he worked it out. He took the subway to an uptown stop where there was an elevator and then took a cab back downtown to the party office.

He welcomed retirement because it meant he could come in earlier.

Ziggy had a powerful, tireless voice for chanting. As long as he was physically able, there were few demonstrations or marches he missed. He recounted with a proud smile a picket line on Staten Island, N.Y., of striking graveyard workers. "I was taking a break from chanting," he recalled, "and one of the workers came to me and said, 'Please, please, you have such a loud voice. Don't stop now. The TV cameras are here.'"

He had a very nice singing voice. When the staffer's desk was slow, he would sing out with a worker's song or maybe just "an oldie but goodie." Drawing from his encyclopedic memory, he might belt out a commercial jingle from old radio days.

If you stopped to chat with him at his desk, you would probably be greeted with a political comment or a question—he was intensely moved by the Palestinian struggle—but also with "Did I tell you this one about a rabbi, a priest and a minister?"

Back in the 1960s, YAWF put on several humorous political skits. Fifty years later, Ziggy could remember all the lines and songs, and would regale people in the office with them.

Over the past several months, his health failed to the point where it was impossible for him to reach the HQ and his "battle station." But his comrades made sure he was kept in touch with. He died in his sleep early on the morning of Sept. 20. The evening before, he had listened over the phone to the weekly meeting of his beloved Workers World.

Ziggy wasn't "cool" or "with it." He was one of the countless people who find it hard to fit into this isolating society. But he was made less lonely by having comrades who deeply cared about him and by having an important area of responsibility, from which he contributed to the struggle for nearly 45 of his 79 years.

His favorite poet was Don West, who wrote:

*He who clambers through the stars
And plants his toes on highland peak
Shall not again be satisfied
To tramp the level waters seek.
For he who tastes life deep and hard
Shall not trip lightly on its rim,
But surging strong against its barbs
There'll be no quiet peace for him.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sept. 17 'special day of my life'

Dear Detroit Workers.org,

Thanks for speaking out for the Communities of this nation that's experiencing foreclosures and illegal evictions.

September 17th was one of the most special days of my life. Because I was able to attend and also be a part of the March on our State Capitol demanding the passage of SB-1306 for a two-year moratorium to stop all foreclosures and evictions in Michigan.

This march was just the beginning here on the state level, and there is plans to take this matter all the way to Washington, D.C.

The march on Lansing was a great master plan, and I am honored to have been a part of the rally. It was an honor to share the platform with Hon. Sen. Hanson Clarke from Detroit who created this bill. Also being side by side with one of the most honorable ladies that I have known since childhood, and now she's my area state senator, Martha G. Scott, the co-creator of SB-1306. And it was great to see the many organizations, groups, along with the many individuals that attended from all around the state.

As Chairperson of the Community Movement of Highland Park and a member of Michigan Welfare Rights, I can assure you that [these] two groups are fully supporting SB-1306.

We are the government. We are the People, for the People, and by the People.

Our elected officials do work for us, and I do not understand why they seem to think that they own us. Lets join together in Unity as we fight the many social-economic struggles that lie ahead.

— Peace & Love,
Brother William X Akbar

From a former Chrysler Lynch Road assembly worker

On Sept. 28 Rep. Barney Frank defended the Wall Street bailout package on C-SPAN by saying that the Chrysler Loan Guarantee Act of 1979, a bailout of \$1.2 billion, gave the federal government "a little money." Frank is leading the charge to have the capitalist government now give Wall Street a whopping \$700 billion, saying that just like with Chrysler, the federal government may make money in the end.

That money will come from the workers.

But what are the real lessons of the Chrysler loan guarantees for the workers and the oppressed communities, such as in Detroit? In 1977, Chrysler employed 145,953 workers, 26.5 percent of whom were African American. In the Detroit metro area, 83,656 Chrysler workers were employed: 57.5 percent of the total.

By the end of 1982, after the loan guarantees were in place for three years, Chrysler employed just 63,574 workers,

with just 21.1 percent of the total African Americans. And there were just 33,051 workers employed in and around Detroit, 52 percent of the total. Detroit remains devastated to this day.

When Chrysler closed its Lynch Road assembly plant in 1980, it gave a three-hour notice to the workers over the radio stations. Plant guards and Detroit police were stationed around the plant gates to ensure that the workers didn't "break into" the plant to start work.

On top of that, remaining Chrysler union workers were forced to undergo severe wage concessions because of the act. Ford and General Motors were enabled to lay off thousands of their workers and squeeze concessions from the UAW right up to today.

It is clear that today's Wall Street bailout amounts to the same Chrysler model, with a vast increase in scale. There are no promises of a moratorium on home fore-

closures. There are no guarantees of jobs. It amounts to champagne for the financial wizards of Wall Street and cutbacks and austerity for the workers and oppressed.

In his pamphlet, "Chrysler and the UAW," Workers World Chairperson Sam Marcy wrote: "Under workers' control of production for use instead of profit, it [the auto industry] could thrive and develop and at the same time renovate itself in an orderly fashion without invoking any cataclysmic collapse (as though the earth were collapsing from under the industrial plants and equipment of the auto industry)."

As those words applied to the auto industry almost 30 years ago, they ring true today for the whole country. The only way to end this financial tumult that Wall Street has enmeshed us in is for the workers and oppressed communities to control production for "use instead of profit!"

—Chris Fry
Delmar, NY

Fry was a labor activist in Detroit during the period of the 1979 Chrysler Loan Guarantee Act.

10,000 in Germany protest Afghanistan war

More than 10,000 protesters took to the streets of Germany's capital Berlin and the southern metropolis Stuttgart on Sept. 17 to demand the withdrawal of German troops from Afghanistan.

All surveys and opinion polls show that a majority of people living in Germany oppose the country's massive participation in the illegal occupation of Afghanistan, although only a minority in the Bundestag (Parliament) reflect this position. Here, the demonstrators from the Left Party carry a banner that reads: "Federal Army out of Afghanistan."

Many of the NATO countries are participating in the occupation of

Afghanistan, even if their governments refused to join the occupation of Iraq or have withdrawn from Iraq. In these countries the anti-war movement focuses on demands that the troops be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Beside this protest in Germany, there is another set for Canada, whose troops have taken relatively heavy casualties. The Canadian Peace Alliance and Collectif Échec à la Guerre are calling for a pan-Canadian day of action on Oct. 18 to end the war in Afghanistan and bring Canadian troops home.

—John Catalinotto
PHOTO: GABRIELE SENFT



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iran's 'crimes'?

In 2002, George W. Bush named Iran as part of an "axis of evil," warning about Iran's "nuclear ambitions." Although International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors have found no evidence of Iran developing a nuclear weapons program, Bush continues to state that Iran is a "threat" to world peace.

This Sept. 28, Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, addressed the annual session of the U.N. General Assembly. Quite noticeable was the absence of both U.S. and Israeli delegations during his speech. The U.S. bourgeois media, as usual, opted to attack and vilify him, seeming incapable of reporting in a balanced and objective manner.

The corporate media characterized Ahmadinejad's speech as "rant and railing." They referred to him as "madman," "despot," "kook," "foe," "belligerent" and "lousy." One TV commentator announced that Ahmadinejad was about to be "grilled" by reporters. A local newspaper called his speech "a snoozer of a sermon." They even stated that the suit he wore looked like the same as last year's.

This past August, Ahmadinejad granted a TV interview in Tehran with a prominent U.S. journalist, Charlie Rose, who prefaced his introduction by stating, "No leader in the world is more controversial, mainly due to his rhetoric regarding the holocaust and the state of Israel, than Pres. Ahmadinejad." The interview itself contained sarcasm, snide remarks and accusations by Rose.

Last year, President Ahmadinejad spoke at Columbia University in New York City at the invitation of the student body. The university president's, Lee C. Bollinger, so-called "introduction" of Ahmadinejad became a lengthy personal attack, revealing his contempt. Not being

a gracious host, Bollinger displayed rudeness, disrespect and insults.

Both Democratic and Republican presidential nominees, Obama and McCain, have stated the U.S. needs to impose heavier sanctions on Iran, mobilize the world community to go after Iran's nuclear program, and act more forcefully to contain Iran's nuclear capabilities, all to protect the Zionist state of Israel. The candidates won't state whether Israel has "a green light" or not to use its nuclear weapons. McCain even joked about bombing Iran.

The war drums seem to be banging. And we're still waiting for the U.S. government and the media to explain why Ahmadinejad is considered "one of the most hostile and controversial heads of state" and Iran is so dangerous. What's the rhetoric really all about?

War on Iran and its people would be another preemptive war for oil. There are no weapons of mass destruction! However, both the U.S. and Israel do possess nuclear weapons. Several other countries also have nuclear power or weapons. The threat to the security and stability of the Middle East region comes from Washington, not from Iran. With all the U.S. threats and years of an embargo against Iran, we're still left wondering: what exactly are Iran's crimes?

The long arm of U.S. "national interests" is extensive and expanding. The U.S. is not interested in peace in the region. Instead, it prefers to display force and military power to get its way. It has historically been involved in creating and fueling hostilities in the region. And the capitalist media participates in the propaganda, resorting to deception, name calling, and prejudice again and again. There is no shame in anyone's game.

—Dolores Cox
New York City activist

Students denounce war criminals



A huge noisy crowd, mostly students, held the largest anti-war demonstration in years at the State University of New York at Buffalo. They gathered to protest the so-called "debate" between war criminals Karl Rove and Gen. Wesley Clark.

Rove, former Bush chief advisor, is one of the chief neocon architects of the current wars at home and abroad that serve the interests of corporate greed. He was never made to pay for his part in the Enron Corporation's crimes, or the killing and displacement of millions in

Iraq. Clark, who directed the U.S.-NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, admits responsibility for choosing civilian targets.

People were outraged that these criminals were being paid for their two-hour performance more than twice what most families have to live on for a year, especially when so many face foreclosures, evictions and job losses. The demonstration was organized by PJAW, a broad coalition of local anti-war, peace and justice groups.

—Report and photo by Ellie Dorritie

Much ado about the U.S. blockade of Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash
New York

The Rev. Lucius Walker, founder of Pastors for Peace and the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, sat in New York State Supreme Court Justice Judith Gische's courtroom on Sept. 23. With him, a rainbow of supporters filled every seat.

The hearing continued the attempts by Richard Condon, the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, to compel information about an April 2007 educational trip to Cuba by Beacon High School students. The issue in the hearing was whether or not the SCI could edit and keep secret parts of the interrogation transcripts, then use the redacted version as evidence against the Rev. Walker in two contempt of court motions. These serious charges

excepto militarismo, guerra, y amenazas de más guerra. Esto hace que el sistema capitalista entero sea más peligroso y esté más desesperado.

Es necesario que el movimiento de la clase trabajadora y l@s activistas progresistas y en contra de la guerra se opongan no solamente a las guerras individuales del imperialismo estadounidense. Oponerse a todas las guerras estadounidenses y exigir la abolición de la OTAN están ahora en la agenda. □

could result in fines or jail time.

The judge ruled secretly edited transcripts could not be used, raising the possibility that the contempt motions might also be withdrawn. The next hearing date was not set.

Underlying all this is the ongoing U.S. government's vicious war against socialist Cuba and, by extension, those who dare to exercise their constitutional right to travel there. Cuba is the only country in the world to which the U.S. government attempts to ban travel. Condon cited "an ongoing investigation" as the reason for not providing the transcript to the court or defense attorneys. This assertion may indicate that SCI is being used by federal government agencies for information gathering.

Afterward, during a brief meeting with supporters in the courtroom, American Civil Liberties Union attorney Linda Backiel, who along with Palyn Hung represented Walker and IFCO, pointed out that the hearing was over a technical point and in some ways like the Shakespeare comedy "Much Ado About Nothing." But its real importance was demonstrated by so many people coming to court to show their concern and support.

The Rev. Walker thanked supporters and announced a special hurricane reconstruction caravan to include volunteer carpenters, plumbers and electricians who would help rebuild Pinar Del Rio, Cuba. □

MUNDO OBRERO

¿Explotará la burbuja expansionista de la OTAN?

Continúa de página 12

dos, Demócrata y Republicano para dar asistencia a Georgia, además del continuo apoyo para la expansión de la OTAN, las tropas en Irak y Afganistán, y las bases estadounidenses alrededor del mundo.

Aunque Estados Unidos está experimentando contratiempos políticos, económicos y militares, la contradicción que resulta invariablemente en una amenaza de guerra acrecentada es que el militarismo es una subvención infinita para las corporaciones estadounidenses dominantes — las corporaciones militares de Boeing,

Lockheed-Martin, McDonnell Douglas y GE — con miles de contratistas y subcontratistas. La guerra en el Cáucaso fue "una campanada para las acciones de defensa." (Wall Street Journal, 16 de agosto)

Los pretextos para nuevas guerras y nuevos cargamentos de armas son aliciente para estos mercaderes de la muerte.

El presupuesto militar de los Estados Unidos es ya más grande que el del resto del mundo combinado, y sigue creciendo. El imperialismo estadounidense hoy en día no tiene soluciones para las crisis que están emergiendo por todo el mundo

¿Explotará la burbuja expansionista de la OTAN?

Por Sara Flounders

Primera parte: El viaje de Dick Cheney expone la debilidad de Estados Unidos

Cada esfuerzo de los Estados Unidos por imponerse y restituir su decadente dominación global confirma el debilitamiento de su posición.

Esta débil posición de Estados Unidos nunca fue más obvia que durante la visita del Vicepresidente Dick Cheney a Georgia, Ucrania y Azerbaiyán a comienzos de septiembre. Y se confirmó cuando los miembros de la OTAN pusieron a un lado las demandas de los Estados Unidos de imponer sanciones contra Rusia después de la invasión por Georgia a Osetia del Sur el 7 de agosto con el consiguiente contraataque ruso. Los miembros imperialistas de la OTAN, Alemania, Francia e Italia cortésmente pospusieron las exigencias de Estados Unidos de incluir a Georgia y Ucrania en la alianza de la OTAN liderada por Estados Unidos.

Los imperialistas europeos necesitan del petróleo y la gasolina rusa para alimentar sus industrias. Ellos también quieren proteger sus inversiones corporativas en Rusia más de lo que quieren respaldar la posición decadente de los Estados Unidos.

Cheney visitó Georgia, Ucrania y Azerbaiyán en un esfuerzo por aumentar las amenazas militares contra Rusia y mostrar la determinación de los Estados Unidos por controlar esta estratégica región en la frontera con Rusia. Mientras Cheney visitaba estos países, 18 barcos de guerra de la OTAN, equipados con armas estratégicas, incluyendo misiles teledirigidos, aparecieron en el Mar Negro cerca de las costas de Georgia y de Rusia. El barco USS Mount Whitney, líder de la Sexta Flota Naval de Estados Unidos, ancló en el puerto Poti de Georgia en el Mar Negro el 6 de septiembre, a sólo 6 millas de una base militar rusa.

Las crecientes amenazas militares de los Estados Unidos preocupan no sólo a los intereses comerciales de sus aliados imperialistas en Europa Occidental. Estas amenazas también han llevado a agudos enfrentamientos con la clase capitalista emergente en Rusia.

Este grupo anteriormente actuó como que iban a permanecer socios de los Estados Unidos en la eventual explotación de las industrias que anteriormente eran propiedad social de la Unión Soviética. Estuvieron totalmente de acuerdo con el desmembramiento de la URSS. Después se encontraron con que los piratas imperialistas no cumplieron con sus acuerdos.

Muchos estudios históricos aseveran que en 1990, el líder soviético Mikhail Gorbachev aceptó que una Alemania capitalista unida pudiera ser parte de la OTAN después de que el Secretario de Estado Baker asegurara que la OTAN no extendería su jurisdicción hacia el Este. El Ministro del Exterior alemán Hans Dietrich Genscher, Francois Mitterrand de Francia y John Major de Bretaña hicieron promesas similares.

El imperialismo estadounidense no tiene lugar para socios capitalistas que al final lleguen a ser rivales capitalistas. La política de Washington dicta explíci-

tamente en documentos publicados en la década de los años noventa, que transformaría la OTAN—una alianza militar comandada por EEUU—para prevenir que la propiedad y la planificación socialista emergiera de nuevo y para asegurarse de que no se estableciera una potencia capitalista rival en Rusia o un bloque militar rival en Europa. La meta de EEUU era lograr la dominación militar y corporativa de toda la región.

El bombardeo, el desmembramiento y la ocupación por la OTAN de Yugoslavia desde 1994 hasta hoy, sentó un precedente para la rápida expansión de la OTAN como una alianza militar dominada por Estados Unidos.

La nueva clase capitalista rusa vio cómo todos los países de Europa Oriental y muchas de las ex repúblicas de la URSS se convertían en peones del imperialismo norteamericano y se usaban como bases militares contra Rusia. Ahora el Primer Ministro ruso Putin está ya muy tardíamente, tratando de afirmar la soberanía en un país de gran extensión territorial, rodeado y tremendamente debilitado desde los días del Sóviet.

Rechazadas las políticas de EEUU

Poco sorprende que Putin denunciara el papel jugado por las naves militares de EEUU en el Mar Negro supuestamente haciendo entrega de “ayuda humanitaria” a Georgia. Pero incluso el Ministro del Exterior de Francia Bernard Kouchner—quien llamó el bombardeo contra Yugoslavia en 1999 una “guerra humanitaria”—cuestionó las tácticas actuales de los Estados Unidos y dijo firmemente que “el uso de naves de guerra para entregar ayuda humanitaria arriesgaría inflamar las tensiones con Rusia.”

La declaración de Kouchner demuestra todas las tensiones, fisuras y debilidades de esta alianza que pueden deshacerla. Koucher dijo que la crisis “sólo se puede resolver políticamente y no con buques de guerra”. Él también dudó del valor político del viaje de Cheney a Georgia, Ucrania, y Azerbaiyán. (Bloomberg News, 6 de sept.)

La visita de Cheney a Azerbaiyán, un país rico en recursos petroleros en el Mar Caspio que fuera antes una república de la Unión Soviética, fue un gran revés. EEUU financió la construcción del oleoducto de mil millas, con capacidad de un millón de barriles por día a un costo de \$4 mil millones desde Bakú, la capital de Azerbaiyán, a través de Georgia a su capital Tbilisi, hasta Ceyhán, un puerto en Turquía.

Este proyecto de construcción, vasto y costoso —denominado la línea Bakú-Tbilisi-Ceyhán o la línea BTC, fue un esfuerzo iniciado por la administración de Clinton. El propósito principal era desviar el petróleo hacia los mercados del Oeste, fuera de su ruta por Rusia. Por la misma razón, miles de millones de dólares también fueron gastados en el gasoducto Nabucco desde Baku transitando vía Georgia hacia Turquía.

Según un artículo del Times de Londres del 8 de septiembre con el título: “Cómo el Oeste está perdiendo la guerra fría energética”, el presidente de Azerbaiyán Ilham Aliyev públicamente desairó a Cheney, llamó al presidente ruso Medvedev el

momento después de que se reuniera con Cheney y rechazara absolutamente el suministro de gas para el gasoducto Nabucco. “Entonces, un disgustado Sr. Cheney aparentemente no se presentó a un banquete oficial”.

Entonces el 16 de septiembre, los dos partidos aliados a EEUU en el régimen de Ucrania se dividieron y forzaron la caída del gobierno a pesar de los esfuerzos por parte de Washington de mantenerlos unidos en contra de Moscú.

Este es un revés importante después de casi dos décadas de creciente dominación por los EEUU sobre la región entera. Estos reveses no eliminan el riesgo de una nueva guerra provocada por los EEUU. Estar en oposición a todas las guerras de los EEUU y demandar la abolición de la OTAN están ahora en la agenda del movimiento anti-guerra de los EEUU.

Segunda Parte: EEUU depende más de soluciones militares

Washington cada vez más considera las amenazas de sanciones y/o los ataques militares como solución para resolver todos sus problemas y desafíos. Pero para cada nueva agresión, la administración de Bush encuentra más y más dificultades en movilizar a sus aliados. Hasta algunos estados títeres intentan ahora alejarse de las iniciativas estadounidenses.

Cada país capitalista grande que compite con los Estados Unidos busca primero satisfacer sus propios intereses económicos. Sus cálculos son que EEUU ha perdido su ventaja económica competitiva; sus instituciones financieras están en crisis debilitando al sistema capitalista entero. La máquina de guerra estadounidense, con compromisos más allá de su capacidad, está empantanada en ocupaciones militares desastrosas, enfrentando movimientos de resistencia a largo plazo.

Mientras Dick Cheney visitaba Georgia, Azerbaiyán y Ucrania a principios de septiembre, el presidente George W. Bush anunció una ayuda para Georgia de \$1 mil millones, describiéndola como un compromiso por muchos años. El Fondo Monetario Internacional, controlado por los EEUU, va a abrir acceso a otros \$750 millones en ayuda inmediata para Georgia. Miles de millones más en ayuda militar están proyectados.

Simultáneamente con la postura agresiva de la OTAN en la región del Mar Negro, está la expansión de las redadas militares y bombardeos de los EEUU y de la OTAN en Pakistán, un país aliado de los EEUU. Esta afrenta a la soberanía de Pakistán ya ha inflamado los sentimientos en contra de los EEUU y de la OTAN. En una declaración el 16 de septiembre, el primer ministro de Pakistán, Yousuf Raza Gilani llamó por un alto inmediato a las incursiones militares de los EEUU, agregando que “la soberanía y la integridad territorial del país serían salvaguardadas a cualquier precio”.

El bombardeo de la OTAN de un pueblo en Afganistán que mató a más de 90 personas, mayormente niños y civiles afganis, ha forzado hasta al régimen títere de Afganistán a denunciar el ataque.

Las fuerzas de ocupación de los EEUU en Irak todavía no han podido, después de más de cinco años, asegurar sus bases o

proporcionar ni siquiera los servicios más básicos de agua potable y electricidad a una población que ha rehusado abrumadoramente la ocupación.

En medio de todo esto, las amenazas estadounidenses y la información sobre un probable ataque militar contra Irán han continuado casi sin cesar. La mitad de la marina estadounidense está a poca distancia de Irán, capaz de lanzar un ataque.

Al mismo tiempo, Estados Unidos ha seguido adelante con una intensificación desenfrenada: el plan para establecer en Polonia misiles anti balísticos y radares en la República Checa a pesar de la enorme oposición popular allí.

Colapso de un títere estadounidense

La peligrosa intensificación de la flota de la OTAN en el Mar Negro, la expansión continua en la cantidad de miembros de la OTAN, el intento de hacer que otros miembros imperialistas occidentales de la OTAN impongan sanciones contra Rusia, la visita imperiosa de Cheney y el aumento dramático de asistencia a Georgia, son todos esfuerzos desesperados de los Estados Unidos para fortalecer su posición. Pero estas medidas no pueden poner marcha atrás al enorme contratiempo sufrido por los Estados Unidos en su estado cliente de Georgia.

El ejército de Georgia ha recibido entrenamiento militar estadounidense e israelí por cinco años y millones de dólares de aprovisionamiento tecnológicamente avanzado. Además del apoyo y el estímulo de los EEUU para su ingreso en la OTAN. Miles de organizaciones no gubernamentales financiadas por corporaciones estadounidenses dirigían la mayor parte del aparato estatal, manteniendo a Georgia firmemente en la órbita estadounidense.

Entonces, el presidente de Georgia inició un ataque devastador contra la pequeña región autónoma de Osetia de Sur el 7 de agosto, bombardeando su capital, Tskhinvali, y la zona circundante, matando a much@s osetian@s sureñ@s.

Luego de un día de contraataque ruso, el ejército georgiano colapsó en un caos total. Comandantes abandonaron sus puestos, secuestraron ambulancias y huyeron a la capital de Tbilisi. Las unidades no podían comunicarse unas con otras. Los soldados rasos entonces tiraron toneladas de nuevas armas estadounidenses en los caminos y también huyeron.

Un artículo del New York Times del 3 de septiembre echó toda la culpa a la tecnología: “Los problemas militares de Georgia eran graves y demasiado difíciles de cambiar simplemente mejorando el equipo.” Sin embargo, el artículo también dijo que “el entrenamiento y equipamiento de nuevas brigadas, re-aprovisionamiento de la fuerzas existentes y la instalación de una red moderna de defensa aérea podrían costar de \$8 a \$9 mil millones,” y que esto estaba siendo debatido.

La única solución de los Estados Unidos es más guerra

La clase corporativa dominante de los Estados Unidos está contando más y más con la guerra para salvar su posición. Esto se ve reflejado en el apoyo de ambos parti-

Continúa a pagina 11